

**MINUTES
TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING**

January 27, 2014

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, January 27, 2014. In attendance were First Selectman Stevenson, Selectmen Hall, Marks, Nielsen, and Tierney.

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

First Selectman Stevenson noted that the purpose of the meeting was to receive the proposed budget from the Town Administrator for fiscal year 2014-15. Town Administrator Kilduff started his presentation noting that the Board would start a budget conversation which will result in the Board expressing its goals and priorities.

The budget was proposed to increase from \$42,466,624 to \$45,217,268 and it was noted that \$289,941 was cut from Department requests for operating expenses and \$2,524,475 was cut from capital requests. Operating expenses were proposed to increase by \$1,649,711 for 5.57%. Transfer out to support capital and other expenses were proposed to increase by \$152,890 or 7.38%. Debt service was proposed to increase by \$948,043 or 8.78%.

Certain cost drivers were noted which impacted the budget including, increasing electricity rates; increases to insurance coverages with 15% for Workers' Compensation and 10% for all other lines of coverage; healthcare increase of 10%; and funding for a change in facility maintenance with the addition of a contracted management service.

Debt service included \$262,000 in new debt for the acquisition of 4 Short Lane and anticipated Board of Education facility needs at the elementary school level. Without these new issues, debt service was anticipated to increase by \$685,735 or 6.35%.

A calculation was provided for the mill rate required to fund the total budget as proposed by the Superintendent of Schools and Town Administrator which demonstrated the impacts of revaluation. Revaluation saw a 7% reduction in the Grand List which would require an increase in the mill rate to generate the same level of revenue. The decrease in a value of a mill reduced the amount of budget changes needed to impact the mill rate.

Mr. Kilduff added that new assumptions were provided from the Town's actuary regarding pension funding requirements. The actuarial report provided a lower funding requirement than what was assumed in building the budget. As a result, there is an immediate reduction of \$206,000 available to the Board of Selectmen.

Draft to be Approved by BOS
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In conclusion, it was stated that the budget stopped being a staff document and was not the Board of Selectmen's to set a direction for the town, establish priorities and define service levels.

First Selectman Stevenson asked if any Board members had questions regarding the proposed budget. Mr. Tierney questioned the contingency assumptions for contract settlements and asked general questions regarding the calculation of the mill rate.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Karl F. Kilduff
Town Administrator